

CONGLETON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

ON THE

**HEALTH AND SANITARY
CIRCUMSTANCES
OF THE DISTRICT**

FOR THE

Year Ended 31st December, 1949

Medical Officer of Health :

C. DOVE CORMAC, M.A., B.M., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

REGINALD C. FORD, M.S.I.A.

To the Chairman and Members of the Congleton
Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report upon the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Rural District of Congleton during the year 1949, which is the first complete year since the National Health Service Act came into operation.

My combined appointment as Divisional Medical Officer and Medical Officer of Health has enabled the environmental health services administered by you to be co-ordinated to the fullest extent with those health Services provided by the Cheshire County Council. I have therefore included in my Report details of the Public Health Services administered by both authorities.

I wish to express my thanks both to you, to other officials of the Council and to my staff for the help and co-operation which I have received throughout the year. I also acknowledge with thanks the assistance given to me by the Sanitary Inspector and the Surveyor in compiling my Report.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

C. DOVE CORMAC,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Estimated population 12,810

Births

Live Births—

		Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	.....	184	91	93
Illegitimate	.....	8	6	2

Still Births—

Legitimate	.....	4	3	1
Illegitimate	.....	—	—	—

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated average population mid 1949 14.9

Live birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the population 16.7

Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 20.4

Still birth rate per 1,000 estimated average population 0.31

Still birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 total population 0.39

Infantile Mortality

The total number of deaths of infants under one year of age is shown as follows:—

		Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	.....	7	4	3
Illegitimate	.....	—	—	—

This gives an infantile mortality rate of 36.4 per 1,000 live births.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 38

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 0

Deaths

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths, all ages	146	85	61
Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population mid 1949			11.4
Death rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the population			11.7

The following table shows the deaths from all causes within the district during the year:—

Cause of Death	Total	Male	Female
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	0	0	0
Scarlet fever ...	0	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	0	0	0
Diphtheria ...	0	0	0
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	3	3	0
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	0	0	0
Syphilitic diseases ...	0	0	0
Influenza ...	1	1	0
Measles ...	1	1	0
Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis ...	0	0	0
Acute inf. encephalitis ...	0	0	0
Cancer of buc., cav. and oesoph (M.) uterus (F.) ...	0	0	0
Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...	5	4	1
Cancer of breast ...	1	0	1
Cancer of all other sites ...	12	7	5
Diabetes ...	0	0	0
Intracranial vascular lesions ...	17	9	8
Heart diseases ...	39	23	16
Other diseases of circulatory system ...	6	2	4
Bronchitis ...	8	4	2
Pneumonia ...	1	1	0
Other respiratory diseases ...	1	1	0
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	0	0	0
Diarrhoea under two years ...	0	0	0
Appendicitis ...	0	0	0
Other digestive diseases ...	3	1	2
Nephritis ...	4	3	1
Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis ...	0	0	0
Other maternal causes ...	0	0	0
Premature birth ...	0	0	0
Congenital mal., birth inj., infant dis. ...	6	3	3
Suicide ...	0	0	0
Road traffic accidents ...	1	1	0
Other violent causes ...	9	5	4
All other causes ...	28	16	12
	146	85	61

Deaths from puerperal and maternal causes:—

Puerperal Sepsis	0
Other maternal causes	0

The Maternal Mortality rate is 0 per 1,000 live and still births.

There was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year calling for special comment.

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

Care of Mothers and Young Children

Welfare Centres are situated at Mow Cop, Scholar Green, and Holmes Chapel. Sessions are held twice monthly and Welfare Foods are available at cost price for those who attend. The district is also served by Infant Welfare Centres situated in Congleton and Sandbach where sessions are held weekly.

Health visiting is carried out by nurses on the staff of the Cheshire County Council.

Home Nursing Service

District Nurses serving the area are resident in Astbury, Chelford, Goostrey, Holmes Chapel, Monks Heath, Sandbach, Scholar Green and Wheelock. The service now provided by the Cheshire County Council was previously administered by voluntary committees.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

Early in the year sessions for immunisation against Diphtheria were completed in all schools. Immunisation against Diphtheria, against Whooping Cough and Vaccinations have been carried out by Doctors at their surgeries, at home and at the Welfare Centres.

STATISTICS

Diphtheria Immunisation

Age 0 to 4	102
Age 5 to 14	24
Reinforcing injections	45

Whooping Cough Immunisation

All age groups	25
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Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Combined Immunisation

All age groups	1
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Vaccination:—

Primary Vaccination

Age 0 to 4	29
Age 5 to 14	1
Adults	4

Re-Vaccination

Age 0 to 4	Nil
Age 5 to 14	Nil
Adults	3

Ambulances and Transport

Since the National Health Service Act came into operation the district has been served by County Ambulances from Congleton and by the Red Cross Ambulances from Sandbach, the latter being provided by the Cheshire County Council on an agency basis.

Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care

As the control of Tuberculosis presents a most pressing problem, the Divisional Health Committee have formed a Care and After Care Sub-Committee to undertake certain aspects of this work.

Domestic Help Service

Under section 29 of the National Health Service Act, the Cheshire County Council provide a Home Help Service for persons who are ill or lying-in, for expectant mothers, for mental defectives, for aged persons and for children not over compulsory school age. The Divisional Health Committee

have engaged one full-time Home Help in Congleton and another in Sandbach, both of whom are available to attend cases in Congleton Rural District. In addition part-time Home Helps have been employed where necessary. A charge is made for this service and varies according to income.

SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water Supply

The quality of the water supplied in the Congleton Rural District during the year has been satisfactory. The quantity of water available in the District has been adequate in the Southern part of the area, but owing to distribution difficulties and the limited resources of the Mow Cop Pumping Station, there have been deficiencies on the Northern part of the District. Three major pipelaying schemes have been approved by the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board in order to assist in remedying these defects.

Bacteriological examinations of the raw and treated waters have been carried out at regular intervals, and Chemical analyses have been taken. No action has been required in respect of contamination.

There is no danger of plumbo-solvent action.

Sewerage

The extensions to the sewers and treatment works at Odd Rode and Scholar Green were completed during the year and as a result of the slowness in conversions being undertaken voluntarily, the Council is considering embarking upon a compulsory scheme.

The work in laying the Manor Lane sewer at Holmes Chapel is progressing slowly due to the running sand which has been encountered.

Closet Accommodation

No. of conversions from conservancy to water-carriage system	51
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No. of houses on conservancy system in built-up areas, including 262 in Townships referred to above as being in need of improved sewerage disposal facilities	366
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Public Cleansing

Removal of house refuse and nightsoil is undertaken in 11 of the 20 Parishes comprising the Rural District. In 8 of the Parishes the work is carried out by direct labour and the remaining 3 by contract. Generally there are very few complaints of neglect despite the limited staff available for this purpose.

A comprehensive scheme to cover the whole area has been submitted but, on being referred to the constituent Parishes for observations, was not received with much enthusiasm.

A further modified scheme embracing those Parishes covered by contract and certain other Parishes who have expressed a desire to embark upon public cleansing is in the course of preparation and will be submitted for consideration in due course.

The time is fast approaching when, incidental to the erection of dwelling houses in various parts of the district, the adoption of a scheme to cover the whole area will become inevitable.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

No. of inspections by the Sanitary Inspector ...	906
No. of defects remedied	628

SECTION D

Housing

No. of houses rendered fit in consequence of service of informal notices	130
No. of houses in respect of which notices were served under the Housing Act requiring repairs and which were rendered fit after service of informal notice	Nil

No. of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
No. of houses overcrowded at the end of the year (estimated)	300
No. of houses demolished (brine subsidence)	4

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk

The supervision of cattle and buildings in connection with milk production was passed to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries from 1st October and, this being a County District, the sampling of milk in course of delivery and offered for sale is carried out by the Cheshire County Council.

Meat and Other Foods.

All private slaughter houses remain closed due to the continuance of controlled slaughtering.

Inspection of other premises where food is retailed or prepared for sale for human consumption is carried out regularly.

Model Byelaws, Series I, dealing with handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air, have been adopted and notice has been given of the Council's intention to apply for confirmation.

In the meantime food handlers and distributors are being advised upon improved methods.

SECTION F

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Disease

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious disease notified during the year, together with the number of cases admitted to hospital and the total number of deaths.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR, 1949.

AGE DISTRIBUTION

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1949

Age Periods	New Cases				Mortality			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Up to 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
25—35	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
35—45	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
45—55	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	4	3	2	1	3	—	—	—

NOTIFICATION OF RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS, 1939—48

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	Total
Congleton R.D.	8	10	13	3	4	4	6	7	5	3	63
Cheshire Total	435	481	528	462	468	515	483	373	461	445	4651

NOTIFICATION OF NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS, 1939—48

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	Total
Congleton R.D.	9	2	7	5	9	4	2	4	4	—	46
Cheshire Total	275	204	224	257	220	223	190	140	197	159	2089

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The following tables on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937, gives details on inspections and cases where defects were found.

(1) Inspections for purposes of the provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors):

Premises	No. on Register	No. of inspections	No. of written notices	No. of occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	43	41	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	38	31	0	0
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	0	0	0	0
Total ...	81	72	0	0

Cases in which defects were found

	Number of cases in which defects were		Number of cases in which defects were referred		No of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	I	I	—	I	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	I	I	—	I	—

Outworkers under Sections 110 and 111 1

No additional certificates were granted regarding fire escapes during the year.

